

Atty Dkt. No.: SIER-022CON
USSN: 10/826,466

AMENDMENTS

Please incorporate the following amendments into the claims of the subject application.

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1-45. (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) A method of determining whether an agent inhibits GC-Box 5 repression of TERT transcription, said method comprising:

(a) contacting said agent with [an] a first expression system comprising a GC-Box 5 repressor binding site and a first coding sequence operably linked to a TERT promoter under conditions such that in the absence of said agent transcription of said coding sequence is repressed;

(b) contacting said agent with a second expression system comprising a second coding sequence operably linked to a TERT promoter that does not comprise a GC-Box5 repressor binding element;

(c) determining whether transcription of said first coding sequence is repressed in the presence of said agent; and

~~(c)~~ (d) identifying said agent as an agent that inhibits GC-Box 5 repression of TERT transcription if transcription of said first coding sequence is not repressed in the presence of said agent and transcription of said second coding sequence is not altered in the presence of said agent.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said first contacting step occurs in a cell.

49. (Original) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said agent is a small molecule.

Atty Dkt. No.: SIER-022CON
USSN: 10/826,466

50-52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 48, wherein said cell does not express telomerase.

54. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 53, wherein said cell is an MRC5 cell.

55. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said first coding sequence encodes a luciferase.

56. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said first coding sequence encodes a secreted alkaline phosphatase (SEAP).

57. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said agent is a biomolecule.

58. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 57, wherein said biomolecule is selected from the group consisting of peptides, proteins, nucleic acids, oligonucleotides, saccharides, fatty acids, steroids, purines, pyrimidines, and derivatives or structural analogs thereof.

59. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said first expression system is contained in a vector.

60. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 59, wherein said vector is a plasmid.

61. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 59, wherein said vector is a viral vector.